

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 L-03 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00

SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 DRC-01 /160 W

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P R 151824Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0492

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02618

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, MX

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S VISIT TO BONN

REF: STATE 25468

1. SUMMARY. MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S VISIT WAS LARGELY A GOOD-WILL MISSION WITHOUT SURPRISES. THE PRESIDENT RAISED HIS PROPOSAL FOR A QUOTE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS END QUOTE AND THE FRG RESPONDED IN GENERAL TERMS. ECHEVERRIA ATTEMPTED TO PROMOTE FRG INVESTMENT IN MEXICO DURING CALLS ON THE FRG ECONOMICS MINISTER AND WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF GERMAN COMPANIES. HE MADE NO REQUESTS FOR BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE DURING A CALL ON STATE SECRETARY MATTHOEFER IN THE AID MINISTRY. A NUMBER OF MINOR AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED, SOME OF WHICH HAD BEEN AROUND FOR MONTHS AND WERE APPARENTLY COMPLETED AND AGREED TO AT THE LAST MINUTE. THE BERLIN CLAUSE IN A CULTURAL AGREEMENT APPEARS NO LONGER TO BE A STUMBLING BLOCK TO ITS CONCLUSION. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE DIRECTOR OF THE FONOFF WESTERN LATIN AMERICAN DEPARTMENT, MARRE, PROVIDED EMBOFF ON FEB 12

WITH INITIAL BRIEFING ON THE VISIT. HE SAID IT HAD GONE WELL, TO THE EVIDENT SATISFACTION OF BOTH SIDES, AND HAD PRODUCED NO SURPRISES. ECHEVERRIA CALLED ON PRESIDENT HEINEMANN, CHANCELLOR BRANDT AND FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL AND PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY MATTHOEFER OF AID MINISTRY. THE EMPHASIS, WHICH WAS DETERMINED LARGELY BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, WAS OVERWHELMINGLY ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES.

3. ONE OF ECHEVERRIA'S MAIN INTERESTS, WHICH HE RETURNED TO AGAIN AND AGAIN, WAS HIS PROPOSAL FOR A "CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS, A SUBJECT WHICH THE PRESIDENT STRESSED BOTH IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS AND IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS. MARRE SAID THAT THE GERMANS REPLIED IN GENERAL TERMS, EXPRESSING THEIR WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER SUCH A CHARTER SO LONG AS IT CONSTITUTED NOTHING MORE THAN AN EXPRESSION OF GOOD WILL AND DID NOT ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH NEW INTERNATIONAL LAW. WHAT THE GERMANS DID NOT WANT -- AND MARRE SAID THAT THEY HAD MADE THIS PERFECTLY CLEAR TO ECHEVERRIA -- WAS A DOCUMENT WHICH MEXICO OR OTHER LDCS MIGHT USE AS A BASIS FOR CLAIMS AGAINST THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, POSSIBLY EVEN CLAIMS PRESENTED FORMALLY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE.

4. MARRE SAID THAT ECHEVERRIA HAD PREDICTABLY EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN REDUCING MEXICO'S ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY ON THE US AND IN DEVELOPING ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE FRG AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL IMBALANCE IN THE FRG-MEXICAN TRADE RELATIONSHIP (FRG EXPORTS TO MEXICO, ACCORDING TO MARRE, OUTWEIGH MEXICAN EXPORTS TO THE FRG BY A RATIO OF ABOUT 7:, THERE WAS LITTLE DISCUSSION OF THIS AS A PROBLEM IN THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, PRIMARILY BECAUSE A LARGE PART OF THE FRG EXPORTS ARE OF CAPITAL GOODS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE BUILDING UP OF MEXICO'S OWN EXPORTING INDUSTRIES, ALTHOUGH BOTH SIDES AGREED TO ATTEMPT TO RAISE MEXICAN
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IMPORTS TO THE FRG. DURING THE CALL ON ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIDERICHS AND DURING A MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF GERMAN INDUSTRIES, ECHEVERRIA EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO INCREASE GERMAN INVESTMENT IN MEXICO. HE MET CRITICISM OF THE MEXICAN LAW ON 51 PER CENT OWNERSHIP BY PROMISING THAT ITS APPLICATION WOULD BE FAIR. OF SPECIFIC INTEREST TO MEXICO IS THE PROMOTION OF JOINT VENTURES BUT NO SPECIFIC INDUSTRIAL BRANCHES WERE MENTIONED. ECHEVERRIA TALKED IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT INCREASING

OIL EXPLORATION IN THE GULF OF MEXICO. OUR CONTACTS
EXPECT THAT THESE GENERAL COMMENTS WILL BE CLARIFIED
IN ADDITIONAL BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS LATER IN THE YEAR.

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 02618

MARRE SAID THAT ECHEVERRIA HAD EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN
ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES IN
MEXICO; IN THIS CONNECTION, IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT A
MEXICAN DELEGATION WOULD COME TO THE FRG UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF THE CONSEJO NACIONAL DE CIENCIA Y
TECNOLOGIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF
THE OPERATIONS OF MULTINATIONALS HERE.

5. ECHEVERRIA CALLED ON PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY
MATTHOEFER OF THE MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION.
OUR CONTACTS IN THIS MINISTRY TELL US THAT THE ONE
HOUR MEETING COVERED ONLY GENERAL TOPICS AND THAT
ECHEVERRIA MADE NO REQUESTS FOR ANY DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE. IN FACT, ECHEVERRIA MADE EVERY EFFORT TO
APPEAR AS THE SPOKESMAN OF A DEVELOPED COUNTRY
DURING HIS TALKS AT THE AID MINISTRY, INDICATING THAT

MEXICOWANTED NEITHER DEVELOPMENT AID NOR
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. ONE MINOR PROBLEM WHICH
ECHEVERRIA RAISED WAS THE IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE
NUMBER OF TECHNICIANS THE FRG WAS SENDING TO MEXICO
AS COMPARED TO THOSE MEXICO WAS SENDING TO THE FRG.
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AID MINISTRY OFFICIALS SEE THIS DESIRE FOR EQUALITY
IN EXCHANGES AS ONE EXAMPLE OF ECHEVERRIA'S DESIRE
FOR TREATMENT AS AN EQUAL. THE FRG RESISTS
INCREASING THE NUMBER OF MEXICANS COMING TO THE FRG
ON THE GROUNDS THEY CAN BE BETTER TRAINED IN THEIR
OWN COUNTRY. ECHEVERRIA ALSO REVIEWED A NUMBER OF
INTERNAL MEXICAN ECONOMIC PROGRAMS FOR INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT. THE IADB AND GERMAN MEMBERSHIP WAS
NOT MENTIONED. BOTH OUR AID MINISTRY AND ECONOMICS
MINISTRY CONTACTS CHARACTERIZED THE VISIT AS A GOOD
WILL MISSION WITHOUT SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS.
MARRE COMMENTED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD CALLED ON
MATTHOEFER RATHER THAN AID MINISTER EPPLER BECAUSE
EPPLER WAS AWAY FROM BONN DURING THE VISIT;
BUT HE RECALLED ALSO THAT THERE WERE RUMORS OF SOME
MUTUAL HARD FEELINGS BETWEEN ECHEVERRIA AND EPPLER
STEMMING FROM THE LATTER'S VISIT TO MEXICO IN 1970 AS
THE HEAD OF THE FRG DELEGATION WHICH ATTENDED
ECHEVERRIA'S INAUGURATION.

6. SEVERAL AGREEMENTS WERE CONCLUDED DURING THE
VISIT; (A) AN AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL
COOPERATION, WHICH FRG SPOKESMEN CHARACTERIZE AS
THEIR STANDARD AGREEMENT AND WHICH DOES NOT MENTION
ANY SPECIFIC PROJECTS; (B) A BASIC AGREEMENT ON THE
EXCHANGE OF YOUNG TECHNICIANS AND SCIENTISTS, WHICH
PERMITS SMOOTHER OPERATION IN THEIR BILATERAL
SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM; (C) AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES
CONCERNING THREE EXPERTS ON INCREASING EXPORTS WHO
ARE TO WORK FOR TWO MONTHS AT THE FOREIGN TRADE
INSTITUTE IN MEXICO CITY; (D) A JOINT DECLARATION ON
THE INTEREST OF THE TWO SIDES IN CONCLUDING THEIR
NEGOTIATIONS ON A CULTURAL AGREEMENT.

7. MARRE COMMENTED THAT THE PROBLEMS WITH THE
CULTURAL AGREEMENT WERE OF VERY LONG STANDING,
NEGOTIATIONS HAVING STARTED IN 1961. CONCLUSION OF
THE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN HELD UP BY MEXICAN
UNWILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO A
SATISFACTORY BERLIN CLAUSE, APPARENTLY OUT OF A
DESIRE NOT TO OFFEND THE USSR. NOW THAT THE
QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON BERLIN AND THE FRG'S BASIC
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TREATY WITH THE GDR HAD BEEN CONCLUDED, THE MEXICANS
WERE PREPARED TO INCLUDE A BERLIN CLAUSE ON THAT
BASIS AND WISH TO REVIVE THE LONG DORMANT NEGOTIATIONS.
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